

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,791,601 to Chang et al., (hereinafter “Chang”).

In response, claim 6 has been canceled thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

However, new claims 7-12 have been added to further define the patentable invention. New claims 7-12 are fully supported in the original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the addition of new claims 7-12.

A feature of the present invention as recited in new claim 7 resides in that, in a medical system that comprises more than one medical device (one of which includes an image pickup device), a state change recording unit is provided for recording information of a change of state and an occurrence time thereof when a state of at least one of the medical devices changes and a display control unit is provided for displaying recorded images and the state change information at the time corresponding to the image.

Chang simply does not disclose or suggest at least such features. In stark contrast, the system of Chang does not utilize more than one medical device. Only an endoscope is disclosed as being used with the system of Chang. Thus, the system of Chang only makes use of an endoscope and does not disclose or suggest first and second medical devices as recited in claim 7. Chang further discloses that if a predetermined amount of images are accumulated in an image recording unit, an image is output from an associated printer. Thus, the system of Chang is distinctly different from the present invention as recited

in claim 7. Chang neither discloses nor suggests the recited state change recording unit nor the recited display control unit for displaying recorded images and the state change information at the time corresponding to the image as also recited in claim 7.

Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 7 patentably distinguishes over Chang for at least the reasons discussed above and is allowable and that claims 8-12 are at least allowable as being dependent therefrom.

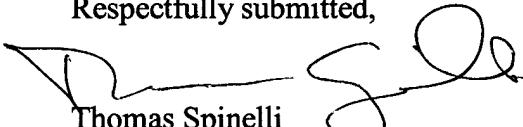
Furthermore, claims 8-12 recite features that patentably distinguish over Chang independently of their base claim (7). For example, Chang does not disclose or suggest state change information including at least one of operation information, setting information, or error information. Chang further does not disclose or suggest a display control unit which reads the recording start time recorded in the image recording unit and counts the play and display time, and adds the recording start time and the play and display time to calculate the time to have recorded the played and displayed image to display the state change information at the time of occurrence corresponding to the time to have recorded the played and displayed image on the play and display unit.

Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 8-12 patentably distinguish over Chang independently of their base claim and are allowable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone

conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas Spinelli
Registration No.: 39,533

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser
400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343
TS:cm